



2003-2004 WATERFOWL HUNTING DIGEST

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2003-2004

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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Missouri Relay Center —1-800-735-2966 (TDD).

2003-2004 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

After several years of optimistic forecasts, declining duck populations and deteriorating prairie wetland conditions during 2002 were thought to signal the beginning of a low cycle for ducks and duck hunters. A lower duck breeding population was predicted for spring 2003, but higher than average late spring precipitation in the prairie pothole region resulted in a recovery of pond numbers. In addition, greater than expected numbers of ducks were counted during the May surveys.

Although a lack of wetland vegetation in newly flooded basins may affect food availability and use by ducks, spring 2003 breeding grounds conditions were much better than expected. Weather, habitat, and migration timing will have a greater impact on the season in Missouri than the size of the fall flight.

Goose fall flights should be similar to 2002; however, the proportion of immature geese will likely be as high or higher than last year due to favorable weather conditions during the nesting period.

In Missouri, near normal precipitation in the spring of 2003 was followed by the return of dry conditions throughout much of the state. If dry conditions continue, hunting opportunity will be limited to managed public and private areas and to rivers and reservoirs at normal and low levels.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess and transport waterfowl or coots in Missouri, a hunter must possess and carry the following permits:

1) ***Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit is required of:***

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64, unless exempt
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

This permit is available to residents for \$9 and nonresidents for \$65 from any permit vendor.

Exemptions: The following do not need to carry a Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit

- Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land

2) ***Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required of:***

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration (HIP).

3) ***Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of:***

- Every waterfowl hunter age 16 and over

To be valid, the federal *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp* (duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. Federal duck stamps are available for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

4) ***Permit requirements for hunters aged 15 and under***

- Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and under do not need to purchase permits to hunt waterfowl or coots in Missouri. However, they must either be in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter or have in their possession a valid Hunter Education Certificate Card while hunting.

Purchase Permits

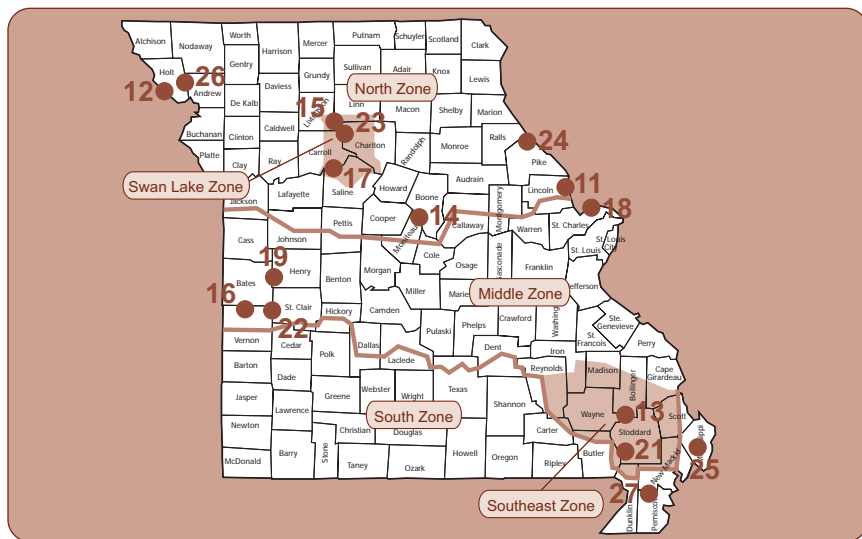
Purchase the *Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit* and the *Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit*:

- over the counter from any permit vendor
- by telephone anytime at (800) 392-4115*
- on-line anytime at www.wildlifelicense.com/mo*

*Credit card and \$2 per person surcharge required for phone and on-line purchase.

Note: You *must* have your permits in hand when you go afield to hunt. Allow 10 days for delivery when purchasing by phone or on-line.

Purchase the federal *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp* (duck stamp) at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.



Managed Waterfowl Hunting Areas

- 11 B.K. Leach Mem. C.A. (1,414 acres), Hwy. 79, 4 miles south of Elsberry to Rt. M, then east 3 miles. Elsberry Office: 573/898-5905. Drawing will be held at new addition.
- 12 Bob Brown C.A. (3,302 acres), 2.5 miles west of Forest City off Hwy. 111. Chillicothe Office: 660/646-6122
- 13 Duck Creek C.A. (6,190 acres), Puxico, Duck Creek HQ: 573/222-3337
- 14 Eagle Bluffs C.A. (4,269 acres), 6 miles southwest of Columbia near McBaine. Columbia Office: 573/445-3882
- 15 Fountain Grove C.A. (7,155 acres), Rt. W, 5 miles south of Meadville off Hwy. 36. Chillicothe Office: 660/646-6122
- 16 Four Rivers C.A. (13,732 acres), Hwy. 71, 15 miles north of Nevada to Hwy. TT, then east 1 mile. Four Rivers HQ: 417/395-2341
- 17 Grand Pass C.A. (5,096 acres), 5 miles southwest of Miami. Chillicothe Office: 660/646-6122
- 18 Marais Temps Clair C.A. (935 acres), Hwy. 94 north of St. Charles to Hwy. H & Island Road. Busch Office: 636/441-4554
- 19 Montrose C.A. (3,979 acres), 12 miles west of Clinton on Hwy. 18, then south 4 miles on Hwy. RA. Montrose HQ: 660/693-4666
- 21 Otter Slough C.A. (4,866 acres), Southwest of Dexter on Hwy. ZZ. Otter Slough HQ: 573/624-5821
- 22 Schell-Osage C.A. (8,634 acres), 1/2 mile south and east of Schell City. Schell-Osage HQ: 417/432-3414
- 23 Swan Lake N.W.R. (2,500 acres), Between the towns of Sumner & Mendon. Swan Lake HQ: 660/856-3343
- 24 Ted Shanks C.A. (6,705 acres), 16 miles north of Louisiana & 18 miles south of Hannibal. Exit Hwy. 79 & follow Rt. TT. Hannibal Office: 573/248-2530
- 25 Ten Mile Pond C.A. (3,755 acres), 5 miles south of East Prairie on Hwy. 102. Ten Mile Pond HQ: 573/649-2770
- 26 Nodaway Valley C.A. (3,752 acres), Hwy B, 8 miles north of Hwy 59/B intersection. Chillicothe Office: 660/646-6122
- 27 Little River C.A. (1,000 acres), Hwy NN, 4 miles east of Kennett off Hwy 84. Otter Slough HQ: 573/624-5821

North Zone: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Missouri Hwy. 79; south on Missouri Hwy. 79 to Missouri Hwy. 47; west on Missouri Hwy. 47 to Interstate 70; west on Interstate 70 to U.S. Hwy. 54; south on U.S. Hwy. 54 to U.S. Hwy. 50; west on U.S. Hwy. 50 to the Kansas border.

Swan Lake Zone: That portion of Missouri bounded by U.S. Hwy. 36 on the north; Missouri Hwy. 5 on the east; Missouri Hwy. 240 and U.S. Hwy. 65 on the south; and U.S. Hwy. 65 on the west.

Middle Zone: The remainder of Missouri not included in other zones.

Southeast Zone: That portion of Missouri west of a line beginning at the intersection of Missouri Hwy. 34 and Interstate 55, south on Interstate 55 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Missouri Hwy. 53; north on Missouri Hwy. 53 to Missouri Hwy. 51; north on Missouri Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Missouri Hwy. 21; north on Missouri Hwy. 21 to Missouri Hwy. 72; east on Missouri Hwy. 72 to Missouri Hwy. 34; east on Missouri Hwy. 34 to Interstate 55.

South Zone: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Missouri Hwy. 34 to Interstate 55; south on Interstate 55 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Missouri Hwy. 53; north on Missouri Hwy. 53 to Missouri Hwy. 51; north on Missouri Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Missouri Hwy. 21; north on Missouri Hwy. 21 to Missouri Hwy. 72; west on Missouri Hwy. 72 to Missouri Hwy. 32; west on Missouri Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border.

SPRING 2004 CONSERVATION ORDER

(see the back cover for effective dates)

A Conservation Order for “light geese”—defined as lesser snow geese in both the white and blue phases and Ross’s geese—will be in effect for the sixth consecutive year. The order was implemented to reduce the high numbers of light geese that are damaging portions of the fragile arctic tundra. Estimates of mid-continent light geese peaked at nearly 3 million during 1998, but declined to 2.4 million by January 2003. In Missouri, 569,846 light geese were counted during January 2003, down from the record high of 893,000 in 2002.

During the Conservation Order, hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and may shoot until 1/2 hour after sunset with no daily bag or possession limit. A valid Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit (\$6) is the only permit required for both resident and nonresident hunters.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

There are two youth-only waterfowl hunting days in each zone for ducks, geese, and coots. Participating youth hunters *must* be age 15 or younger and *must* be accompanied by a properly licensed (*i.e.*, *Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit*) adult (age 18 or older) who is *not* allowed to hunt ducks, geese or coots.



NOTE: A non-hunting adult is not required to be licensed *if* the youth carries a valid Hunter Education Certificate Card.

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: **North Zone:** Oct. 18–19

Swan Lake Zone: same as North Zone

Middle Zone: Oct. 25–26

Southeast Zone: same as Middle Zone

South Zone: Nov. 15–16

Limits: The same as during the regular waterfowl season (including one pintail and one canvasback).

Ducks and Coots

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: see table on back cover

Limits:

Coots15 daily and 30 in possession.

Ducks: The **daily bag limit** of ducks is 6 and may include no more than:

Mallard	4
[but no more than 2 females]	
Scaup	3
Redhead	2
Wood Duck	2
Black Duck	1
Hooded Merganser	1
Pintail (during the prescribed season)	1
Canvasback (during the prescribed season)	1
Other species may be taken in any number up to the daily bag limit of 6 ducks total.	

The **possession limit** of ducks is 12 (twice the daily bag limit; varies by species.)

Wetland Status

Wetland habitat conditions, as measured by the number of May ponds in the U.S. prairies and the prairie provinces of Canada, improved more than 91 percent from 2.7 million in 2002 to 5.2 million during spring 2003, most dramatically in southern Canada. In 2002, Canadian wetland conditions were among the lowest on record. This year there were 145 percent (3.5 million) more May ponds in Canada, which was similar to their long-term average and 7 percent higher than the 10-year average. U.S. May ponds (1.7 million) were 30 percent higher than 2002 and 10 percent above the 1974-2002 average. July ponds, indicative of brood habitat, also improved from 2002. The number of July ponds in Prairie Canada and the north-central United States combined (2.5 million) was 35 percent above the 2002 estimate of 1.8 million, but 8 percent below the long-term average. July ponds in Prairie Canada (1.5 million) were 47 percent above last year's estimate, but 16 percent below the long-term average. July ponds in the north-central United States were 21 percent above 2002, and similar to the long-term average.

Duck Status

Total duck numbers in the traditional survey area increased 16 percent from 31.2 million in 2002 to 36.2 million in 2003, 9 percent above the long-term average. The greatest increase occurred in southern Prairie Canada where the number of ducks increased 88 percent from 2002. For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined, total duck numbers were up 30 percent from 2002, but still were 4 percent below the long-term average.

Canvasback and Pintail Status

Currently, overall season length and bag limits are based upon the status of mallards. When other species, such as canvasbacks and pintails, fall below objective levels, special provisions are considered to ensure additional protection. The objective for canvasbacks to maintain a breeding population of at least 500,000 would not likely be achieved if one canvasback per day were allowed for a full 60-day season. Likewise, pintail numbers have improved from a record low of 1.8 million to 2.6 million in 2003, but those gains would be lost if a one-bird bag was allowed for a full sixty days. Therefore, the season length for both canvasbacks and pintails is 30 days only. The first 30 days of the 60 day duck season was selected because that period is when most hunters are in the field and duck identification is most difficult.

Duck Identification Tips

With increased use of species restrictions in the daily bag, the need for hunters to identify their target before shooting becomes even more important. Hunters should have in mind what species are expected to be present during the particular time of year, time of day, and in the habitat they are hunting. Once ducks are spotted, the flight characteristics of the flock will help. Small, compact, fast-flying flocks are more likely to be teal or shovelers, as compared to mallards, pintails or wigeon, which are more likely to be seen in loose flocks. Divers tend to have a faster wing-beat than dabblers, and canvasbacks tend to shift from wavy lines to V's.

Closer up, color and individual silhouettes become more important. Pintails are long and sleek with pointed wings, tails, and narrow necks. The prominent sloped bill of the canvasback is readily visible within gun range.

For additional help in identifying ducks, purchase the Conservation Department's 16-minute video, "The Key to Duck ID," by calling toll-free 877-521-8632.

If unsure of the species, the safest bet is to not shoot!

Adaptive Harvest Management

Duck season length and bag limits in Missouri are based on regulatory alternatives developed under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Adaptive Harvest Management Program. It allows one of the following four options:

- a liberal season of 60 days, 6 ducks, 4 mallards including 2 hens
- a moderate season of 45 days, 6 ducks, 4 mallards including 1 hen
- a restrictive season of 30 days, 3 ducks, 2 mallards including 1 hen
- a closed season.

For the seventh consecutive year, a liberal season was recommended for this waterfowl season.

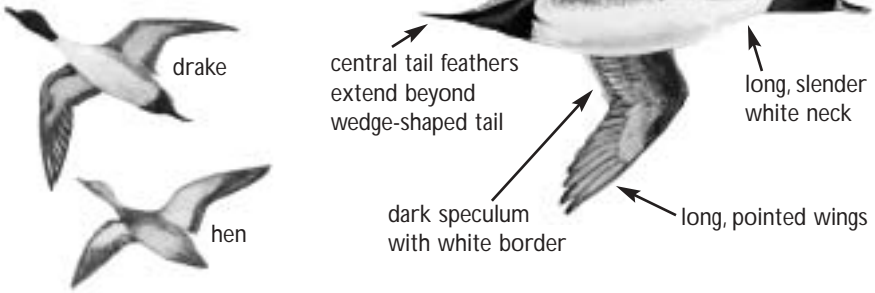
Under this management program, each year's regulations are based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. The adaptive approach explicitly recognizes that questions remain about the relationship between regulations, harvest rates and population levels. To help answer these questions, the USFWS uses information gathered each year to help improve predictions in subsequent years. Limiting the number of regulatory alternatives enables knowledge to be generated more rapidly, improving our ability to maximize hunting opportunity without adversely affecting waterfowl populations. For more information about Adaptive Harvest Management, refer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web page at:

<http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mgmt/AHM/AHM-intro.htm>.

Pintail

These slender, graceful and fast fliers, often zig-zagging from great heights before leveling off to land. Drakes whistle. Hens have a course *quack*.

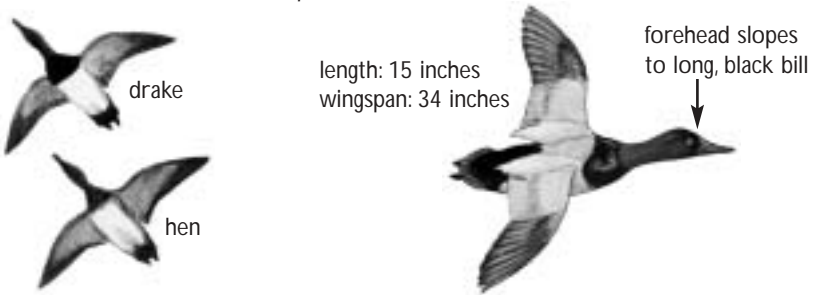
length: 18.5 inches
wingspan: 35 inches



Canvasback

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. Drakes *croak, peep* and *growl*. Hens have a mallard-like *quack*.

length: 15 inches
wingspan: 34 inches



REPORT YOUR BANDS CALL 1-800-327-BAND

Bird banding programs provide valuable information on a wide variety of migratory game birds. Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, and harvest rates and distribution.

To report band numbers from all types of birds (not just waterfowl or other game birds), call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation and information about the bird you reported. The band is yours to keep! You can also report bands on the internet at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl



Geese

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits:

The **daily bag limits** of geese are:

Blue, Snow & Ross's (all species combined)	20
Brant	2
White-fronted	2
Canada:	

North Zone:

Sept. 27–Oct. 12	3
Oct. 25–Nov. 23	2
Dec. 20–Jan. 18	2

Swan Lake Zone:

Oct. 25–Nov. 30	2
Dec. 20–Jan. 18	2

Middle Zone:

Sept. 27–Oct. 12	3
Nov. 1–30	2
Dec. 27–Jan. 25	2

Southeast & South zones:

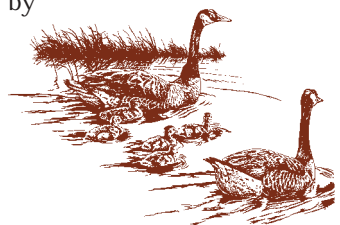
Oct. 4–12	3
Nov. 22–Jan. 25	2

The **possession limits** of geese are twice the daily bag limits, except there is no possession limit for blue, snow and Ross's geese.

Canada Goose Status

Nesting conditions for geese across much of the arctic were favorable during 2003 and average to above average production is expected. The 2003 Canada goose Eastern Prairie population estimate of 229,200 was similar to the estimate for most years since the mid-1980s. Above average temperatures in May and early snow melt contributed to early nesting and a positive outlook for production in 2003. We project a fall flight similar to 2002 and 2001, potentially with a greater proportion of young geese.

In Missouri, the 2003 giant Canada goose spring population estimate of 62,806 was similar to the 2002 estimate of 64,222. Production of giant Canada geese may have been impacted locally by flooding and severe weather during spring 2003, but overall a good nesting effort is expected.



Goose Season Rationale

Canada geese that migrate to Missouri include birds from four different populations. The Tallgrass Prairie population of Canada geese nest near the Arctic Circle on Baffin Island, the Eastern Prairie and Mississippi Valley populations originate from west Hudson Bay in northern Manitoba and Ontario, and giant Canada geese nest in more temperate areas, including Missouri. Geese from different populations survive, reproduce and are harvested at different rates, and each population experiences different breeding conditions each year.

In general, populations that nest in the arctic often experience “boom or bust” production due to weather conditions, and they migrate over long distances, which exposes them to more hunting pressure. Therefore, efforts are needed to protect these populations from additional hunting mortality. In Missouri, for example, no more than 30 days of Canada goose hunting after Nov. 30 is allowed in the North and Middle zones to protect the Eastern Prairie population. In contrast, giant Canada geese are increasing in number, and additional days have been added during early season, prior to the arrival of migrants, to increase hunting opportunity for giant Canadas that nest in Missouri. Up to 25 percent of the statewide Canada goose harvest has occurred prior to mid-October in some years.

Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots & Mergansers

Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: *North Zone:* Sept. 6–21 and Sept. 24–Dec. 23

Middle Zone: Sept. 6–21

Oct. 1–Dec. 30

South Zone: Sept. 6–21

Oct. 22–Jan. 20

Limits: The **daily bag limit** is 3 and the **possession limit** is 6, singly or in the aggregate.

MOTION-WING DECOYS

Efforts to evaluate the use and attitudes regarding motion-wing decoys were initiated in 2000 and continued through 2002. Field observations, reports from hunters on Conservation Department areas, and responses to post-season surveys have provided insights into effectiveness and preferences for future use. The use of motion-wing decoys in Missouri appears to have stabilized with 57 percent of hunters reporting using them in both 2001 and 2002. On Department wetland areas in 2002, motion-wing decoy users accounted for 69 percent of the trips and 73 percent of the ducks harvested.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, transportation, shipment, and storage of waterfowl and other migratory birds. (**NOTE:** This is only a summary; refer to Title 50, Part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations):

RESTRICTIONS: No person shall take waterfowl and/or other migratory game birds:

- ✦ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- ✦ With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- ✦ From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- ✦ From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. Paraplegic means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- ✦ From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- ✦ By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- ✦ Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- ✦ By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- ✦ By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is or was baited to be in violation. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations

to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces, or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area.

🦅 While possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than steel shot or such shot approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

CLOSED SEASON: No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS: No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, motel, etc.

WANTON WASTE: All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

TAGGING: No person shall give, put, or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature.
2. The hunter's address.
3. Hunting permit number.
4. The total number of birds involved, by species.
5. The dates such birds were killed.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS: Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

DRESSING: No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one full-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a commercial preservation facility.

SHIPMENT: No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

IMPORTATION: For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult federal regulations 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. NO person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

PERMITS AND STAMPS: Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over must carry on their person a valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (federal duck stamp) signed in ink across the face by the user.

DUAL VIOLATION: Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

Shot Requirements

Shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl or coots statewide, and other species as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As of mid June 2003, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- steel
- steel with coatings of less than 1 percent of either copper, nickel, zinc chromate or zinc chloride
- tungsten-polymer
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-iron
- tungsten-nickel-iron (TNI) such as Hevi-Shot
- tungsten-iron-nickel-tin (TINT)
- bismuth-tin

Note: Tin shot is *not* approved at this time. Check the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Website at <http://policy.fws.gov> for up-to-date information.

WATERFOWL STATUS AVAILABLE ONLINE

For information about waterfowl status in 2003 and for hunting reports throughout the fall, see the Department's web site at: www.missouriconservation.org/hunt/wtrfowl

A summary of continental waterfowl status is available at: <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/reports/reports.html>

**SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.
Central Standard Time**

DAY	SEPT. 2003		OCT. 2003		NOV. 2003		DEC. 2003		JAN. 2004	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:39	7:04	6:52	6:35	5:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58
2	6:39	7:38	7:05	6:50	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59
3	6:39	7:36	7:06	6:49	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:47	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:01
5	6:41	7:33	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:01
6	6:42	7:32	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:02
7	6:43	7:30	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:03
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:04
9	6:45	7:27	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05
10	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
11	6:46	7:24	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
12	6:47	7:22	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
13	6:48	7:21	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09
14	6:49	7:19	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
15	6:50	7:17	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:11
16	6:51	7:16	7:19	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:12
17	6:52	7:14	7:19	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:13
18	6:53	7:13	7:20	6:27	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:14
19	6:53	7:11	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15
20	6:54	7:09	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:17
21	6:55	7:08	7:24	6:23	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:23	5:18
22	6:56	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:19
23	6:57	7:05	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20
24	6:58	7:03	7:27	6:19	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:21	5:21
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22
26	7:00	7:00	6:29	5:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:23
27	7:01	6:58	6:30	5:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24
28	7:02	6:57	6:31	5:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:26
29	7:02	6:55	6:32	5:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
30	7:03	6:54	6:33	5:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28
31			6:34	5:10			7:26	4:57	7:16	5:29

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 25 have been converted to daylight-saving time. To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, see the U.S. Naval Observatory web site: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/>

HARVEST SURVEY NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE

When you purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, the vendor asks you a series of questions about your last year's migratory bird hunting activities. The answers you provide place you in a category with other migratory bird hunters by type and amount of hunting activity. This allows the Conservation Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, through the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, to use harvest surveys to sample hunters from each category. This extremely important survey information is considered when establishing migratory bird hunting seasons each year. If you are one of the hunters selected to receive a survey, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. By completing the survey, you are doing your part to help manage these important migratory birds.

2003-2004 Waterfowl Seasons

ZONE	YOUTH DAYS	DUCKS & COOTS	PINTAILS & CANVAS-BACKS	CANADA GEESE & BRANT	WHITE-FRONTED GEESE	BLUE, SNOW, ROSS'S GEESE
NORTH	10/18–10/19	10/25–12/23	10/25–11/23	9/27–10/12 10/25–11/23 12/20–1/18	10/25–1/18	10/25–1/18
SWAN LAKE	same as North	same as North	same as North	10/25–11/30 12/20–1/18	same as North	same as North
MIDDLE	10/25–10/26	11/1–12/30	11/1–11/30	09/27–10/12 11/1–11/30 12/27–1/25	11/1–1/25	11/1–1/25
SOUTH-EAST	same as Middle	same as Middle	same as Middle	same as South	same as South	same as South
SOUTH	11/15–11/16	11/22–1/20	11/22–12/21	10/4–10/12 11/22–1/25	11/1–1/25	11/1–1/25

The **Conservation Order** for light geese will be in effect from **Jan. 19 through April 30, 2004**, in the North & Swan Lake zones and **Jan. 26 through April 30, 2004**, in the Middle, Southeast and South zones.

During the Conservation Order hunters may use electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset with no daily bag or possession limit. See p. 5 for full details.

BE AN ETHICAL HUNTER

- ☒ **Respect Other Hunters**—Your enjoyment, and theirs, will result from mutual courtesy in the marsh.
- ☒ **Respect the Rules**—Know all state and federal regulations before hunting.
- ☒ **Respect Biology**—We share responsibility for migratory bird and wetland resources throughout North America.
- ☒ **Respect the Waterfowl Hunting Tradition**—Setting up too close or downwind of other hunters is neither safe nor ethical.
- ☒ **Respect the Resource**—Be sure that birds are in range and that you identify your target before shooting.